

Listing of claims:

Claims 1 - 11 are withdrawn.

12. (Currently Amended) A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a fluid distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of thin wall metallic ~~pipe ends~~ pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces and end portions, each end portion having a squared cut end and a rounded cross-sectional configuration, ~~said a~~ pair of the pipe ends positioned in a parallel and an ~~abutted~~ end to end relationship to each other;

a ~~sealer~~ double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape applied only around the ~~abutted~~ exterior surfaces of the pair of the pipe ends, wherein the ~~sealer~~ double- sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape has a first end and a second end and said second end forms an overlap of the first end around the pair of said pipe ends; and

a ~~steel~~ coupling clamped over the ~~sealer~~ double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

13. (Currently Amended) The sealed joint of claim 12, wherein the ~~steel~~ coupling has means for clamping said coupling and wherein the means for clamping is positioned over the ~~sealer~~ overlap of the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

14. (Currently Amended) The sealed joint of claim 12, wherein the pair of ~~thin-walled metallic~~ pipe ends are butted as close together as possible.

Claims 15 - 24 are withdrawn.

25. (New) A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a beverage distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of thin wall metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces, each pipe having an end positioned in a parallel and an end-to-end relationship to each other;

a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape having a normal tensile strength of at least 80 - 110 lbs./in² to aluminum at room temperature, wherein said double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is wrapped around only the exterior surfaces of the pipe ends for providing a leakproof joint and a smooth interior surface at the joint;

and a coupling clamped over the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape.

26. (New) The seal joint of claim 25 wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape is precut so that a second end of the precut tape overlaps a first end of the precut tape around said pipe ends forming an overlap approximately 3/16" - 1/4" long and the coupling has a clamping means positioned over the overlap.

27. (New) The sealing joint of claim 25, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape further provides a static sheer of at least 1000 grams at 72° and 500 grams at 150°F, has a peel adhesion rating for stainless steel at room temperature of at least 18 lbs./in.

28. (New) The sealing joint of claim 25, wherein each pipe end has an inside chamfer formed therein.

29. (New) The sealing joint of claim 27, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed cell acrylic foam tape can be applied to the pair of pipe ends at a temperature as low as 32°F.

De
(4-4)

30. (New) A sealed joint for an overhead pipe system for a beverage distribution system, the sealed joint comprising:

a pair of metallic pipes having smooth interior and exterior surfaces, the pair of metallic pipes each have a chamfered end abutted in an end-to-end relationship to each other;

a double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape applied only around the exterior surfaces of the abutted chamfered ends; and

a coupling clamped over the acrylic foam tape, wherein the double-sided adhesive, closed-cell acrylic foam tape has the following properties: a peel adhesion rating of at least 18 lbs/in² at room temperature for stainless steel, a normal tensile strength to aluminum at room temperature of at least 50 lbs./in², a static sheer of at least 1000 grams at 72°F and of at least 500 grams at 150°F, a dynamic sheer of 40 lbs./in², a static sheer of 250 grams for 10,000 minutes and a temperature tolerance of at least 160°F.

Dr
(initials)